GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3854
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2016
Medicinal Herbs
Misra Shri Pinaki

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research work has been carried out to genetically modify the terminal medicinal herbs that have proven to be beneficial in the treatment of illness;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) if not, the steps being taken to conduct research in the field of medicinal herbs?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a)& (b) It is to inform that Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi in collaboration with M/s IPCA Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai under Institute-Industry Collaborative Research Project supported by Department of Science & Technology (DST) has undertaken research work for Artemisia annua (an antimalarial drug). The CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT) is doing genetic modification related work on two medicinal herbs − Picrorhiza kurroa and Podophyllum hexandrum for imparting stress tolerance and enhancing secondary metabolite production. CSIR-IIIM, Jammu is working towards the development of genetically modified medicinal herbs like Withanaia somnifera(Ashwagandha), Artemisia annua (Nagdona), Picrorhiza kurroa (Kutki), Nicotiana tobacum(Tambaku), Coleus forskohlii(Makandi) for the enhanced production of the therapeutic molecules in these plants.

(c) Does not arise.
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